

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 PM-03 MC-02 PRS-01 OMB-01

ACDA-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /070 W

----- 026257

R 051725Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMTM DHAHRAN UNN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

USAF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26160

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AIRCRAFT SALES TO SAG

REF: JIDDA 4183 (NOTAL); PARIS 24681 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF, OCTOBER 4, ASKED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIDDLE
EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON ABOUT REPORT IN SEPTEMBER 30 LE MONDE
THAT FRANCE HAD SOLD 38 MIRAGE III-E PLANES TO SAUDI ARABIA.
ROUILLON'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED
APPRECIABLY SINCE CONVERSATION REPORTED
PARIS 24681, EXCEPT THAT HE IS NOW CERTAIN THAT CONTRACT FOR
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UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF MIRAGES WILL EVENTUALLY BE SIGNED.

BUT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, CONTRACT HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED.

2. ROUILLON SAID HE HAD RAISED QUESTION OF TRANSFER TO EGYPTIANS AND HAD BEEN ASSURED BY FRENCHMEN NEGOTIATION SALE THAT CONTRACT WOULD INCLUDE "NON-TRANSFER" CLAUSE IDENTICAL WITH THAT IN LIBYA MIRAGE CONTRACT. HE EMPHASIZED DIRECT LINK BETWEEN SUCH A CLAUSE AND FRANCE'S EMBARGO TO "BATTLEFIELD COUNTRIES" IN MIDDLE EAST. HE AFFIRMED THAT GOF STILL MAINTAINS THIS EMBARGO "AS OF NOW."

3. COMMENT: ROUILLON'S EMPHASIS ON EMBARGO EXISTING "AS OF NOW" CLEARLY INDICATED THAT GOF IS NOT PERMANENTLY BOUND BY THIS POLICY. WHEN EMBOFF ATTEMPTED TO PROBE ON THIS SUBJECT ROUILLON REMINDED HIM THAT EMBARGO POLICY WAS UNILATERALLY PROMULGATED BY GOF AND, THEREFORE, IT CAN REVERSE THIS DECISION "BY STROKE OF A PEN AT ANY TIME." HE FIRST SAID THAT GOF WAS NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY REVISION OF THIS POLICY BUT IMMEDIATELY REPHRASED THIS TO INDICATE THAT NO SUCH DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT WAS ROUILLON'S CONCLUSION THAT EMBARGO WHEN FIRST PROMULGATED FAVORED ARABS OVER ISRAEL, BUT THAT UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT FAVORS ISRAEL OVER ARABS. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, NOT BE SURPRISED IF GOF WERE CURRENTLY GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO LIFTING EMBARGO. ROUILLON MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT WITHOUT EMBARGO, "NON-TRANSFER" CLAUSES IN LIBYAN (AND FORTHCOMING SAUDI ARABIAN) SALES WERE# BECOME INOPERATIVE.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.
#AS RECEIVED.

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